

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & VOTING INFORMATION IN CLASSROOM STUDIES

CALIFORNIA CIVICS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY CALIFORNIA'S HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

A Commitment to Our Communities



The goal of Academia CIVITAS, a program at Rio Americano High School in Sacramento, is to prepare and graduate responsible, knowledgeable, civic-minded adults committed to our communities. In addition to completing district graduation requirements, CIVITAS students complete a minimum of six semesters of specialized courses. The instructional strategies have students participate in collaborative learning groups, analyze and develop public policy models, debate controversial topics, conduct research, and examine domestic and global issues. It is an extended learning opportunity requiring participation with a mentor after school or during school breaks. The common thread linking the experiences of Academia CIVITAS is the theme "A Commitment to Our Communities." Academia CIVITAS links the academic curriculum to "real life" experiences in the community.

This community-based learning program has a three-part component, which begins with service learning the freshman year and culminates with the senior project, which is related to the students' internship and academic experiences. A panel of teachers, parents, and community members review and evaluate the senior project.

The following CIVITAS seniors will be presenting projects at the end of November: **Anna Arstein-Kerslake** - Photo documentation of CIVITAS; **Lisa Brent** - Community Outreach Project; **Chris Carleson** - Hate Crime Bill; **Esther Chang** - People Reaching Out Pamphlet; **Eric Chen** - Nimbus Fish Hatchery Teacher Packets; **Brooks Day** - Youth Group for Community Service; **Michael Frank** - Campus Guide for Prevention of Sports Injuries; **Erin Galeria** - Elementary School Reading Program; **Adam Harris** - Curriculum CD for Teachers; **Rebecca Hartstrom** - Sacramento County Animal Care and Regulation; **Jason Hopper** - Youth Leadership Advisory Board - CSUS Summer Academy; **Jason Huyck** - Speakers Bureau for Non-Profit Community Organizations; **Nina Kapoor** - Peer Court Tutorial; **Abraham Lim** - North Area Teen Center Safety System; **Kristin Lui** - Professional Video on Restoring Fish Population; **Michelle Mark** - Joint Powers Agreement for Los Angeles County Sheriff and City Police to Build a Crime Lab; **Deleana Quan** - Community Association; **Nicole Richards** - Safety of School Campuses; **Isaac Salem** - Sacramento Neighborhood Housing Service Board; **Angela Sanchez** - California Coalition of Family and Youth; **Joshua Simmons** - Youth Connection/Campaign for Governor; **Ashley Thompson** - Creating Theme Curriculum Boxes; **Steve Ueltzen** - Arden Arcade Community Outreach Plan; **Gabriella Warner** - Data Collection for New City Hall Building; **Liane Winter** - Park and Recreation Program; and **Daniel Zamani** - Drama Therapy Program for Elementary School.

Would you like to be featured on the cover of a future newsletter?

Send your story to: Secretary of State,
c/o California CIVICS, 1500 11th Street, 5th Floor,
Sacramento, CA 95814

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CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

There are many things you can do to engage yourself in civic activities. These eleven tips will give you some ideas on how to get involved. Identify the issues YOU care about and then turn these ideas into action!

1. WRITE

Work for government policies that support volunteer service. Urge officials to change old laws and policies or write new ones. **Write** letters to the editor of your local paper about the issues and potential solutions.

2. EDUCATE

Invite local officials to participate in your service activities. **Educate** them about your perspective on the issue and ask for their support.

3. INVITE

Invite the local newspaper, television or radio station to cover your volunteer project.

4. CREATE

Create a website. Educate your school or community about an issue.

5. ORGANIZE

Organize a debate, town hall meeting, or youth forum to engage local leaders and young people in discussion about youth issues.

6. SHARE

Map your community's problems and assets. **Share** the results with local officials.

7. VOLUNTEER

Volunteer for an issue or a candidate campaign.

8. ASK

Ask your teacher or school to offer credit for volunteer work at a local government or nonprofit agency.

9. LAUNCH

Launch a letter-writing campaign to Congressional Representative or Senator for support of the Younger Americans Act, Reauthorization of the National and Community Service Trust Act. (Find more at www.SERVE.net.org)

YOUTH SERVICE AT RECORD

Thanks to the large number of young people volunteering in their communities, youth service is at record highs! Check out the following:

1. More young people are volunteering

Volunteering is up 12 percent over the last 10 years: 74.2 percent of college freshman volunteered their last year of high school in 1998; 59.3 percent reported service-learning graduation requirements. (UCLA/Higher Education Research Institute Annual Freshmen Survey, 1998)

2. More teenagers than adults volunteer

59.3% (13.3 million teenagers ages 12-17) volunteer, versus 49% of the adult population over the same time period. Teens say they volunteer 12.5 hours per year, versus the adult average of 4.2 hours. (Independent Sector/Gallup, 1996)

3. The majority of young people have participated in community activities

70 percent of young people ages 15-21 have participated in activities to help strengthen their community at some point in their lives (1998)

Source: Youth Service America

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ved and make a difference in your community.

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10. WORK

Work with local officials to increase funding for youth activities in your community.

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11. REGISTER & VOTE!

If you are 18 or older, **REGISTER AND VOTE** in the next election.

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HIGHS

wing statistics:

1998, versus 62 percent in 1989. Only 21.3 (1999)

y volunteer an average of 3.5 hours per week

. (Do Something/Princeton Survey Research,

Letters to the Editor

Is there a deadline to register to vote in California?

Yes, but the deadline has recently changed. AB 1094 changed the deadline to register to vote in California from 29 days before an election to 15 days before an election. This means that for the upcoming March 5, 2002 Primary Election, your voter registration form needs to be postmarked by midnight of **February 19, 2002** (February 18, 2002 is a holiday so the close of registration has been extended one day). If you register between 15 and 29 days prior to an election, you will receive a notice of your polling place location, but there may not be enough time to ensure receipt of election materials, such as your Voter Information Guide. What does all of this mean? **REGISTER EARLY!!** Also, encourage your friends and family to register before February 19, 2002 to ensure they receive all the election information they need.

I heard that California no longer has an open primary election system. Is this true?

Yes, it is true. Under the open primary system, every voter, regardless of political party affiliation, was eligible to vote on any candidate for federal and state partisan offices. However, on June 26, 2000, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the open primary system is unconstitutional because it violates a political party's First Amendment right of association.

California currently has a "modified" closed primary system. This means that if you are registered to vote with a political party, you may only vote in the primary election for the candidates running for office from the party with which you are registered. However, if you are not registered with a qualified political party (in other words, you checked "decline to state" on your voter registration card), you can vote a ballot of any political party that has notified the Secretary of State's office that it will permit "unaffiliated" voters to help nominate their candidates. In order to determine which parties allow Decline to State voters to vote in their primary elections, contact the Secretary of State's toll-free number: 1-866-DTS-VOTE or visit the Secretary of State's web site and at look at the "Decline to State - Voter Information" web page at http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_decline.htm.

Let us know what you think!

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE to voice your concerns about the government and political issues that are important to you. Let us know what you are doing to become involved in your community. Your questions, comments or concerns may be sent to Secretary of State, c/o California CIVICS, 1500 11th Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814, or by e-mail at CIVICS@ss.ca.gov.

CIVICS Word Scramble

Instructions:

- 1) Unscramble each of the words in Section 1.
- 2) Copy the letters in the numbered cells in Section 1 to the cells in Section 2 to find out what the mystery phrase is.

SECTION 1

1. TEACARPIPTI

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2. INMCYOTUM

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3. SUSDISC

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4. ROIZEGNA

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5. NEETOLRUV

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6. TECDEAU

--	--	--	--	--	--	--
7. DEKNWOELG

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
8. TUFERU

--	--	--	--	--	--
9. NINELUFEC

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10. PUPROTS

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11. WEOPR

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SECTION 2 - Mystery Phrase

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ANSWER KEY:

SECTION 1: 1) Participate; 2) Community; 3) Discuss; 4) Organize; 5) Volunteer; 6) Educate; 7) Knowledge; 8) Future; 9) Influence; 10) Support; 11) Power
SECTION 2: Make a difference

Movers & Shakers

Make a Difference!

Movers & Shakers are young people – like you – that go out of their way to make life a little better in their communities. Here are some examples:

- After learning about Louis Braille, a 15 year-old girl invented alphabet blocks to help young blind students learn to read - in Braille!
- Two young people in Oakland delivered 300 origami cranes their class made to young people in an Islamic school as a gesture of peace after the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11th.
- Students at a Los Angeles high school started Food From the Hood, a student-owned business that provides scholarships to student-owners and donates food from their campus garden to help people in their community.

Share what you're doing!

Many of you do volunteer work, organize projects, or just come up with good things to do to make a difference in your communities. If you know someone who's a Mover & Shaker, or if you are, don't be shy! Share the story. Your teacher has a form you can fill out, or you can get the form on a new website at www.shakethestate.com.

Selected stories about Movers & Shakers will appear on the site, highlighting things you're doing to make a difference. If a story about you is selected, you'll receive a T-shirt to proudly announce that you're a real Mover & Shaker in your community, along with a certificate of appreciation from California Secretary of State Bill Jones (in recognition of your outstanding citizenship).